

JAN 31 2006

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Appl. No.:** 09/876,290 **Confirmation No.:** 9540  
**Applicants:** Yoshiyuki Yanagisawa et al.  
**Filed:** June 7, 2001  
**TC/A.U.:** 2822  
**Examiner:** David E. Graybill  
**Docket No.:** 075834.00085  
**Customer No.:** 33448

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 8, 2005, Applicants elect, with traverse, the first species as seen in Figure 4 and which is described by claims 1-2, 7, 11, 14, 16-21. Applicants therefore await consideration and examination of elected claims 1-2, 7, 11, 14, 16-21 and respectfully request consideration on the merits in due course. Applicants also note that at least claim 1 remains generic and remains patentably distinct over the prior art of record and accordingly Applicants are entitled to consideration of claims related to additional species. Additionally, Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any non-elected claims in a subsequently filed continuation or divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

1/31/06

(Reg. #37,607)

Robert J. Depke

**TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI**

**BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.**

105 W. Adams Street, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Tel: (312) 704-1890

Attorney for Applicants